



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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January 07, 2014

The Honorable Board of Directors
County of Los Angeles
Regional Park and Open Space District
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

ADOPTED

REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

1-P

January 7, 2014

Sachi A. Hamai
SACHI A. HAMAI
SECRETARY

Dear Directors:

**ALLOCATE CITIES EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE THIRD SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES AND AUTHORIZE AWARD AND ADMINISTRATION OF A
GRANT TO COMMUNITY CONSERVATION SOLUTIONS FOR THE LOS ANGELES RIVER
GREENWAY PROJECT
(THIRD DISTRICT – THREE VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$460,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, for a grant to Community Conservation Solutions for the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Los Angeles River Greenway Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act because the project involves installation of accessory structures and minor alterations to land, including new landscaping, and for the reasons stated herein and the reasons reflected in the record of the Project.
2. Allocate Cities Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District, in the amount of \$460,000, to the City of Los Angeles for a grant to Community Conservation Solutions for the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.
3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a \$460,000 grant to Community Conservation Solutions for the Los Angeles River Greenway Project, after the City of Los

Angeles assigns the right to apply to Community Conservation Solutions and if applicable conditions have been met; to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise, funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$460,000 in Cities Excess Funds, available to the Third Supervisorial District pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), to the City of Los Angeles (City) for a grant to Community Conservation Solutions (CCS) for the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.

The Los Angeles River Greenway Project consists of trail development and wildlife habitat restoration along the Los Angeles River between Whitsett Avenue and Coldwater Canyon Avenue. The project includes site preparation and trail construction, as well as the purchase and installation of fencing, gates, native plants, and other public amenities.

The overall project cost is estimated at \$2,037,639. The recommended \$460,000 in Cities Excess Funds will be supplemented by \$339,000 from the State of California Department of Transportation's Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program, \$751,863 from the State of California Natural Resources Agency's River Parkways Program, \$300,000 from the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy, and \$186,776 in private commitments and in-kind services.

It is also recommended that the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Director) be authorized to award the grant after the City assigns the right to apply to CCS and only if applicable conditions have been met, such as: grantee qualifications, consistency between the projects and requirements of the 1996 Proposition, and grantee agreement with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for the project; and to administer the grant pursuant to the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects previously approved by your Board.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1) by enhancing health-promoting recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River in the Third Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Sufficient appropriation for the Excess Funds grant, in the amount of \$460,000, is budgeted in the Third Supervisorial District's portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District (RPOSD) Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. CCS has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining, each fiscal year, the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts

specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Third Supervisorial District for Cites projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director will be authorized to award grants when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

On June 2, 2009, your Board approved the Procedural Guide to govern the administration of RPOSD grants. The Procedural Guide will appropriately govern the administration of the recommended grant as well.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

All projects funded by RPOSD are required to comply with the CEQA as a condition of the grant. The lead agency is responsible for preparing the appropriate environmental documentation for the project. Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority is the lead agency for the Los Angeles River Greenway Project.

The proposed Los Angeles River Greenway Project is categorically exempt from CEQA. The project, which consists of site preparation and trail construction, as well as the purchase and installation of fencing, gates, native plants, and other public amenities is within certain classes of projects that have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment in that it meets the criteria set forth in Sections 15303 (e) and 15304 (a) (b) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Classes 3 (b) and 4(a) (c) of the County's Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, Appendix G, because the project involves installation of accessory structures and minor alterations to land including new landscaping.

The proposed project above includes no expansion of an existing use, and will not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees. Additionally, the proposed project above is not in a sensitive environment, and there are no cumulative impacts, unusual circumstances, or other limiting factors that would make the exemption inapplicable based on the proposed project's records.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director, and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009, only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The recommended actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required for the enhancement of safe and accessible recreational opportunities along the Los Angeles River in the Third Supervisorial District.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:JB

WRO:TB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors